

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:89
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2002
PLIGHT OF WORKERS OF TEA COFFEE ESTATE
RAMESH CHENNITHALA

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the pitiable conditions of workers of Tea/Coffee Estate/Plantation which have been either closed or abandoned by their owners; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken to rehabilitate the affected workers?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA)

(a) and (b): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 89 BY SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA REGARDING PLIGHT OF WORKERS OF TEA /COFFEE ESTATE DUE FOR ANSWER ON 25.11.2002.

(a) & (b): There are reports about the problems of workers in plantations which have been closed or abandoned by their owners. Based on the available information, the details are given below:

KERALA: Government of Kerala have informed that 23,000 workers have been affected due to closure or abandonment of 23 estates.

Government of Kerala have started relief measures. In addition to relief, Government of Kerala have set up a Standing Committee, as a permanent body to address the various problems of the plantation industry. A sub-committee of State Cabinet with State Labour Minister as convenor, has been formed to explore the feasibility to reopen the plantation estates.

WEST BENGAL : Government of West Bengal have informed that 10 tea gardens in the State have been closed or abandoned thereby affecting approximately 6,000 workers. The government is trying to re-open the gardens through conciliation meetings. The workers of three estates are receiving assistance of Rs. 500/- per month under a scheme of financial assistance to the workers in locked-out industrial units.

TAMIL NADU : Government of Tamil Nadu have informed that no such pathetic conditions of the plantations workers have been brought to their notice and no plantations either been closed or abandoned by their owners in the State.

As per the report received from the Tea Board, the position in respect of other States is as under:

KARNATAKA : There is no serious crisis in any of the tea estates in Karnataka.

ASSAM : Only three gardens are reported to be under lock-out and the number of workers affected thereto adds up to 2526.

TRIPURA : Four tea gardens are reported to be under lock-out; the total number of workers affected adds up to 560.